The Agricultural Situation

A Brief Summary of Economic Conditions

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RISING PRICES—POOR WHEAT CROP

Planting of the crops has proceeded slowly. Taking the country as a whole, they are probably a week to 10 days later than usual.

The most important development during the last month has been the passage of the farm relief law. Expectation of results from this new legislation, including its provisions for controlled production and for drastic monetary changes, has continued to influence wheat, cotton, hogs, and butter toward higher price levels.

Domestic wheat prices have held most of the 30-cent gain made since early March and are substantially above the world price. It is difficult to say what part of this price advance has been due to the prospect of a poor current winter wheat crop, to the measures being taken to reduce production, or to the expectation of monetary inflation. All of these are market factors.

The condition of the growing winter wheat crop in the United States is the poorest on record, last month's indications pointing to only about three fifths of an average crop. The loss is mostly in the hard winter types and in the Pacific white wheats. Spring wheat planting was close to 10 days late both here and in Canada, but moisture conditions are favorable.

The carry-over of old wheat in the United States July 1 will be, from present indications, nearly as large as last year. Canada had nearly 75,000,000 bushels more wheat on hand May 1 than a year ago. Total supplies in North America, when bonded grain is taken into account, are about 40,000,000 bushels larger than at this time last season and are sufficient to supply the domestic needs of both the United States and Canada for nearly a year.

Southern Hemisphere countries have about 15,000,000 bushels more wheat available for export than a year ago. Exportable supplies in the Danube Basin are more than twice those of a year ago. Taken altogether, stocks of wheat in the principal exporting countries appear to be around 40,000,000 bushels larger than a year ago, with world shipments from week to week still running behind last season. On the other hand, the world acreage of wheat this year, excluding Russia, is about 5 percent less than last year.

The rise in hog prices is significant for it has occurred at a season when prices usually go down and in spite of increased hog marketings. This is in marked contrast to the situation a year ago when prices were extremely weak though slaughter supplies were considerably smaller.

The index of average prices of farm products has advanced from 50 up to 62 in the last 2 months. Farm wages are only about three fourths the pre-war figure. Farm mortgage loans outstanding are slowly but steadily decreasing.

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THE FARM RELIEF LAW

(Those who wish to secure copies of the law should write to their Congressmen requesting H.R. 3835—Public, No. 10—73d Cong.)

EXTRACTS FROM THE LAW

Title 1.—Agricultural adjustment (administered by Secretary of Agriculture Wallace):

Pt. 1, sec. 6. (*a*) The Secretary of Agriculture is hereby authorized to enter into option contracts with the producers of cotton to sell to any such producer an amount of cotton to be agreed upon not in excess of the amount of reduction in production of cotton by such producer below the amount produced by him in the preceding crop year, in all cases where such producer agrees in writing to reduce the amount of cotton produced by him in 1933, below his production in the previous year, by not less than 30 per centum, without increase in commercial fertilization per acre.

(*b*) To any such producer so agreeing to reduce production the Secretary of Agriculture shall deliver a nontransferable-option contract agreeing to sell to said producer an amount, equivalent to the amount of his agreed reduction, of the cotton in the possession and control of the Secretary.

(*c*) The producer is to have the option to buy said cotton at the average price paid by the Secretary for the cotton procured under section 3, and is to have the right at any time up to January 1, 1934, to exercise his option, upon proof that he has complied with his contract and with all the rules and regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture with respect thereto, by taking said cotton upon payment by him of his option price and all actual carrying charges on such cotton; or the Secretary may sell such cotton for the account of such producer, paying him the excess of the market price at the date of sale over the average price above referred to after deducting all actual and necessary carrying charges: *Provided,* That in no event shall the producer be held responsible or liable for financial loss incurred in the holding of such cotton or on account of the carrying charges therein: *Provided further,* That such agreement to curtail cotton production shall contain a further provision that such cotton producer shall not use the land taken out of cotton production for the production for sale, directly or indirectly, of any other nationally produced agricultural commodity or product.

(*d*) If any cotton held by the Secretary of Agriculture is not disposed of under subsection (*c*), the Secretary is authorized to enter into similar option contracts with respect to such cotton, conditioned upon a like reduction of production in 1934, and permitting the producer in each case to exercise his option at any time up to January 1, 1935.

GENERAL POWERS

Pt. 2, sec. 8. In order to effectuate the declared policy, the Secretary of Agriculture shall have power—

(1) To provide for reduction in the acreage or reduction in the production for market, or both, of any basic agricultural commodity, through agreements with producers or by other voluntary methods, and to provide for rental or benefit payments in connection therewith or upon that part of the production of any basic agricultural commodity

required for domestic consumption, in such amounts as the Secretary deems fair and reasonable, to be paid out of any moneys available for such payments. Under regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture requiring adequate facilities for the storage of any nonperishable agricultural commodity on the farm, inspection and measurement of any such commodity so stored, and the locking and sealing thereof, and such other regulations as may be prescribed by the Secretary of Agriculture for the protection of such commodity and for the marketing thereof, a reasonable percentage of any benefit payment may be advanced on any such commodity so stored. In any such case, such deduction may be made from the amount of the benefit payment as the Secretary of Agriculture determines will reasonably compensate for the cost of inspection and sealing, but no deduction may be made for interest.

(2) To enter into marketing agreements with processors, associations of producers, and others engaged in the handling, in the current of interstate or foreign commerce of any agricultural commodity or product thereof, after due notice and opportunity for hearing to interested parties. The making of any such agreement shall not be held to be in violation of any of the antitrust laws of the United States, and any such agreement shall be deemed to be lawful: *Provided*, That no such agreement shall remain in force after the termination of this act. For the purpose of carrying out any such agreement the parties thereto shall be eligible for loans from the Reconstruction Finance Corporation under section 5 of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation Act. Such loans shall not be in excess of such amounts as may be authorized by the agreements.

(3) To issue licenses permitting processors, associations of producers, and others to engage in the handling, in the current of interstate or foreign commerce, of any agricultural commodity or product thereof, or any competing commodity or product thereof. Such licenses shall be subject to such terms and conditions, not in conflict with the existing acts of Congress or regulations pursuant thereto, as may be necessary to eliminate unfair practices or charges that prevent or tend to prevent the effectuation of the declared policy and the restoration of normal economic conditions in the marketing of such commodities or products and the financing thereof. The Secretary of Agriculture may suspend or revoke any such license, after due notice and opportunity for hearing, for violations of the terms or conditions thereof. Any order of the Secretary suspending or revoking any such license shall be final if in accordance with law. Any such person engaged in such handling without a license as required by the Secretary under this section shall be subject to a fine of not more than $1,000 for each day during which the violation continues.

PROCESSING TAX

Sec. 9. (*a*) To obtain revenue for extraordinary expenses incurred by reason of the national economic emergency there shall be levied processing taxes as hereinafter provided. When the Secretary of Agriculture determines that rental or benefit payments are to be made with respect to any basic agricultural commodity, he shall proclaim such determination, and a processing tax shall be in effect with respect to such commodity from the beginning of the marketing year therefor next following the date of such proclamation. The processing tax

shall be levied, assessed, and collected upon the first domestic processing of the commodity, whether of domestic production or imported, and shall be paid by the processor. The rate of tax shall conform to the requirements of subsection (*b*). Such rate shall be determined by the Secretary of Agriculture as of the date the tax first takes effect, and the rate so determined shall, at such intervals as the Secretary finds necessary to effectuate the declared policy, be adjusted by him to conform to such requirements. The processing tax shall terminate at the end of the marketing year current at the time the Secretary proclaims that rental or benefit payments are to be discontinued with respect to such commodity. The marketing year for each commodity shall be ascertained and prescribed by regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture: *Provided*, That upon any article upon which a manufacturers' sales tax is levied under the authority of the Revenue Act of 1932 and which manufacturers' sales tax is computed on the basis of weight, such manufacturers' sales tax shall be computed on the basis of the weight of said finished article less the weight of the processed cotton contained therein on which a processing tax has been paid.

(*b*) The processing tax shall be at such rate as equals the difference between the current average farm price for the commodity and the fair exchange value of the commodity; except that if the Secretary has reason to believe that the tax at such rate will cause such reduction in the quantity of the commodity or products thereof domestically consumed as to result in the accumulation of surplus stocks of the commodity or products thereof or in the depression of the farm price of the commodity, then he shall cause an appropriate investigation to be made and afford due notice and opportunity for hearing to interested parties. If thereupon the Secretary finds that such result will occur, then the processing tax shall be at such rate as will prevent such accumulation of surplus stocks and depression of the farm price of the commodity. In computing the current average farm price in the case of wheat premiums paid producers for protein content shall not be taken into account.

(*c*) For the purposes of part 2 of this title, the fair exchange value of a commodity shall be the price therefor that will give the commodity the same purchasing power, with respect to articles farmers buy, as such commodity had during the base period specified in section 2; and the current average farm price and the fair exchange value shall be ascertained by the Secretary of Agriculture from available statistics of the Department of Agriculture.

(*d*) As used in part 2 of this title—

(1) In case of wheat, rice, and corn, the term "processing" means the milling or other processing (except cleaning and drying) of wheat, rice, or corn for market, including custom milling for toll as well as commercial milling, but shall not include the grinding or cracking thereof not in the form of flour for feed purposes only.

(2) In case of cotton, the term "processing" means the spinning, manufacturing, or other processing (except ginning) of cotton; and the term "cotton" shall not include cotton linters.

(3) In case of tobacco, the term "processing" means the manufacturing or other processing (except drying or converting into insecticides and fertilizers) of tobacco.

(4) In case of hogs, the term "processing" means the slaughter of hogs for market.

(5) In the case of any other commodity, the term "processing" means any manufacturing or other processing involving a change in the form of the commodity or its preparation for market, as defined by regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture; and in prescribing such regulations the Secretary shall give due weight to the customs of the industry.

COMMODITIES

SEC. 11. As used in this title, the term "basic agricultural commodity" means wheat, cotton, field corn, hogs, rice, tobacco, and milk and its products, and any regional or market classification, type, or grade thereof; but the Secretary of Agriculture shall exclude from the operation of the provisions of this title, during any period, any such commodity or classification, type, or grade thereof if he finds, upon investigation at any time and after due notice and opportunity for hearing to interested parties, that the conditions of production, marketing, and consumption are such that during such period this title cannot be effectively administered to the end of effectuating the declared policy with respect to such commodity or classification, type, or grade thereof.

APPROPRIATION

SEC. 12. (*a*) There is hereby appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the sum of $100,000,000 to be available to the Secretary of Agriculture for administrative expenses under this title and for rental and benefit payments made with respect to reduction in acreage or reduction in production for market under part 2 of this title. Such sum shall remain available until expended.

(*b*) In addition to the foregoing, the proceeds derived from all taxes imposed under this title are hereby appropriated to be available to the Secretary of Agriculture for expansion of markets and removal of surplus agricultural products and the following purposes under part 2 of this title: Administrative expenses, rental and benefit payments, and refunds on taxes.

EXEMPTIONS

SEC. 15. (*b*) No tax shall be required to be paid on the processing of any commodity by or for the producer thereof for consumption by his own family, employees, or household; and the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized, by regulations, to exempt from the payment of the processing tax the processing of commodities by or for the producer thereof for sale by him where, in the judgment of the Secretary, the imposition of a processing tax with respect thereto is unnecessary to effectuate the declared policy.

Title 2.—Agricultural credits (administered by Governor Morgenthau, of the Farm Credit Administration):

ISSUANCE OF BONDS BY LAND BANKS

PT. 1, sec. 21. Section 32 of the Federal Farm Loan Act, as amended (U.S.C., title 12, sec. 991), is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new paragraph:

"Until such time as the Farm Loan Commissioner determines that Federal farm-loan bonds (other than those issued under this paragraph) are readily salable in the open market at a yield not in excess of 4 per centum per annum, but in no case more than 2 years after this paragraph takes effect, Federal land banks may issue farm-loan bonds as authorized under this act, for the purpose of making new loans, or for purchasing mortgages or exchanging bonds for mortgages as provided in paragraph 'second' of section 13 of this act. The aggregate amount of the bonds issued under this paragraph shall not exceed $2,000,000,000, and such bonds shall be issued in such denominations as the Farm Loan Commissioner shall prescribe, shall bear interest at a rate not in excess of 4 per centum per annum, and shall be fully and unconditionally guaranteed as to interest by the United States, and such guaranty shall be expressed on the face thereof."

PURCHASE, REDUCTION, AND REFINANCING OF FARM MORTGAGES

SEC. 22. Paragraph "second" of section 13 of the Federal Farm Loan Act, as amended, is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new sentence:

"In order to reduce and/or refinance farm mortgages, to invest such funds as may be in its possession in the purchase of first mortgages on farm lands situated within the Federal land-bank district within which it is organized or for which it is acting, or to exchange farm-loan bonds for any duly recorded first mortgages on farm lands executed prior to the date this paragraph, as amended, takes effect, at a price which shall not exceed in each individual case the amount of the unpaid principal of the mortgage on the date of such purchase or exchange, or 50 per centum of the normal value of the land mortgaged and 20 per centum of the value of the permanent insured improvements thereon as determined upon an appraisal made pursuant to this act, whichever is the smaller: *Provided*, That any mortgagor whose mortgage is acquired by a Federal land bank under this paragraph shall be entitled to have his farm-mortgage indebtedness refinanced in accordance with the provisions of sections 7 and 8 of this act on the basis of the amount paid by the bank for his mortgage."

REDUCTION OF INTEREST ON LOANS AND DEFERMENT OF PRINCIPAL

SEC. 24. Section 12 of the Federal Farm Loan Act, as amended (U.S.C., title 12, secs. 771–772), is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new paragraph:

"Twelfth. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 'second', the rate of interest on any loans on mortgage made through national farm-loan associations or through agents as provided in section 15, or purchased from joint-stock land banks, by any Federal land bank, outstanding on the date this paragraph takes effect or made through national farm-loan associations within 2 years after such date, shall not exceed 4½ per centum per annum for all interest payable on installment dates occurring within a period of 5 years commencing 60 days after the date this paragraph takes effect; and no payment of the principal portion of any installment of any such loan shall be required during such 5-year period if the borrower shall not be in default with respect to any other condition or covenant of his mortgage. The foregoing provisions shall apply to loans made by Federal

land banks through branches, except that the rate of interest on such loans for such 5-year period shall be 5 per centum in lieu of 4½ per centum."

INCREASE OF AMOUNT OF LOANS TO BORROWERS

Sec. 25. Paragraph "seventh" of section 12 of the Federal Farm Loan Act, as amended (U.S.C., title 12, sec. 771) (relating to the limitations as to amount of loans), is amended by striking out "$25,000" and inserting "$50,000, but loans to any one borrower shall not exceed $25,000 unless approved by the Farm Loan Commissioner."

DIRECT LOANS

Sec. 26. Section 7 of the Federal Farm Loan Act, as amended, is amended by striking out the last paragraph and inserting in lieu thereof the following new paragraphs:

"Whenever it shall appear to the Farm Loan Commissioner that national farm-loan associations have not been formed in any locality in the continental United States, or that the farmers residing in the territory covered by the charter of a national farm-loan association are unable to apply to the Federal land bank of the district for loans on account of the inability of the bank to accept applications from such association, the Farm Loan Commissioner shall authorize said bank to make direct loans to borrowers secured by first mortgages on farm lands situated within any such locality or territory."

REDUCTION OF DEBTS AND REDEMPTION OF FORECLOSED FARMS

Pt. 3, sec. 32. The Reconstruction Finance Corporation is authorized and directed to allocate and make available to the Farm Loan Commissioner the sum of $200,000,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, to be used for the purpose of making loans as hereinafter provided to any farmer, secured by a first or second mortgage upon the whole or any part of the farm property, real or personal, including crops, of the farmer. The amount of the mortgage given by any farmer, together with all prior mortgages or other evidences of indebtedness secured by such farm property of the farmer, shall not exceed 75 per centum of the normal value thereof, as determined upon an appraisal made pursuant to the Federal Farm Loan Act, as amended; nor shall a loan in excess of $5,000 be made to any one farmer. Every mortgage made under this section shall contain an agreement providing for the repayment of the loan on an amortization plan by means of a fixed number of annual or semiannual installments, sufficient to cover (1) interest on unpaid principal at a rate not to exceed 5 per centum per annum and (2) such payments equal in amount to be applied on principal as will extinguish the debt within an agreed period of not more than 10 years or, in the case of a first or second mortgage secured wholly by real property and made for the purpose of reducing and refinancing an existing mortgage within an agreed period no greater than that for which loans may be made under the Federal Farm Loan Act, as amended, from the date the first payment on principal is due: *Provided*, That during the first 3 years the loan is in effect payments of interest only may be required if the borrower shall not be in default with respect to any other condition or covenant of his mortgage. No loan shall be made under this section unless the holder of any prior mortgage or instrument of indebtedness secured by such farm property arranges to the satisfaction of the Farm Loan Commissioner to limit

his right to proceed against the farmer and such farm property for default in payment of principal. Loans under this section shall be made for the following purposes only: (1) Refinancing, either in connection with proceedings under chapter VIII of the Bankruptcy Act of July 1, 1898, as amended (relating to agricultural compositions and extensions), or otherwise, any indebtedness, secured or unsecured, of the farmer, (2) providing working capital for his farm operations, and (3) enabling any farmer to redeem and/or repurchase farm property owned by him prior to foreclosure which has been foreclosed at any time between July 1, 1931, and the date of the enactment of this act, or which is foreclosed after the enactment of this act. The provisions of paragraph "ninth" of section 13 of the Federal Farm Loan Act, as amended (relating to charges to applicants for loans and borrowers from the Federal land banks), shall, so far as practicable, apply to loans made under this section. As used in this section, the term "farmer" means any individual who is bona fide engaged in farming operations, either personally or through an agent or tenant, or the principal part of whose income is derived from farming operations, and includes a personal representative of a deceased farmer.

Title 3.—Monetary control (administered by Treasury Department, Federal Reserve Board, etc.):

SEC. 43. Whenever the President finds, upon investigation, that (1) the foreign commerce of the United States is adversely affected by reason of the depreciation in the value of the currency of any other government or governments in relation to the present standard value of gold, or (2) action under this section is necessary in order to regulate and maintain the parity of currency issues of the United States, or (3) an economic emergency requires an expansion of credit, or (4) an expansion of credit is necessary to secure by international agreement a stabilization at proper levels of the currencies of various governments, the President is authorized, in his discretion—

(*a*) To direct the Secretary of the Treasury to enter into agreements with the several Federal Reserve banks and with the Federal Reserve Board whereby the Federal Reserve Board will, and it is hereby authorized to, notwithstanding any provisions of law or rules and regulations to the contrary, permit such reserve banks to agree that they will, (1) conduct, pursuant to existing law, throughout specified periods, open-market operations in obligations of the United States Government or corporations in which the United States is the majority stockholder, and (2) purchase directly and hold in portfolio for an agreed period or periods of time Treasury bills or other obligations of the United States Government in an aggregate sum of $3,000,000,000 in addition to those they may then hold, unless prior to the termination of such period or periods the Secretary shall consent to their sale.

(*b*) If for any other reason additional measures are required in the judgment of the President to meet such purposes, then the President is authorized—

(1) To direct the Secretary of the Treasury to cause to be issued in such amount or amounts as he may from time to time order, United States notes, as provided in the act entitled "An act to authorize the issue of United States notes and for the redemption of funding thereof and for funding the floating debt of the United States", approved February 25, 1862, and acts supplementary thereto and amendatory thereof, in the same size and of similar color to the Federal Reserve notes heretofore issued and in

denominations of $1, $5, $10, $20, $50, $100, $500, $1,000, and $10,000; but notes issued under this subsection shall be issued only for the purpose of meeting maturing Federal obligations to repay sums borrowed by the United States and for purchasing United States bonds and other interest-bearing obligations of the United States: *Provided*, That when any such notes are used for such purpose the bond or other obligation so acquired or taken up shall be retired and canceled. Such notes shall be issued at such times and in such amounts as the President may approve but the aggregate amount of such notes outstanding at any time shall not exceed $3,000,000,000. There is hereby appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, an amount sufficient to enable the Secretary of the Treasury to retire and cancel 4 per centum annually of such outstanding notes, and the Secretary of the Treasury is hereby directed to retire and cancel annually 4 per centum of such outstanding notes. Such notes and all other coins and currencies heretofore or hereafter coined or issued by or under the authority of the United States shall be legal tender for all debts public and private.

(2) By proclamation to fix the weight of the gold dollar in grains nine-tenths fine and also to fix the weight of the silver dollar in grains nine-tenths fine at a definite fixed ratio in relation to the gold dollar at such amounts as he finds necessary from his investigation to stabilize domestic prices or to protect the foreign commerce against the adverse effect of depreciated foreign currencies, and to provide for the unlimited coinage of such gold and silver at the ratio so fixed, or in case the Goverment of the United States enters into an agreement with any government or governments under the terms of which the ratio between the value of gold and other currency issued by the United States and by any such government or governments is established, the President may fix the weight of the gold dollar in accordance with the ratio so agreed upon, and such gold dollar, the weight of which is so fixed, shall be the standard unit of value, and all forms of money issued or coined by the United States shall be maintained at a parity with this standard and it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Treasury to maintain such parity, but in no event shall the weight of the gold dollar be fixed so as to reduce its present weight by more than 50 per centum.

SEC. 45. (*a*) The President is authorized, for a period of 6 months from the date of the passage of this act, to accept silver in payment of the whole or any part of the principal or interest now due, or to become due within 6 months after such date, from any foreign government or governments on account of any indebtedness to the United States, such silver to be accepted at not to exceed the price of 50 cents an ounce in United States currency. The aggregate value of the silver accepted under this section shall not exceed $200,000,000.

THE WHEAT MARKET SITUATION

The condition of winter wheat in the United States is the poorest on record, only about three-fifths of an average crop having been in prospect at the 1st of May. The loss is mostly in winter wheat in the western part of the main belt and in white wheats in the Pacific Northwest. The Soft Winter wheat crop, from present indications, will be nearly as large as last season.

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Winter wheat was heading as far north as Kansas at the close of May. Spring wheat went into the ground a week to 10 days late, but seeding was practically completed at the middle of May, with moisture conditions the best in several years. No official estimate of the acreage is yet available but a sharp reduction in durum and a slight increase in other spring wheat were indicated by farmers' planting intentions as reported to the department the middle of March.

Across the line in Canada spring wheat seeding was also delayed by cool weather and wet soil but about three fourths of the crop had been sown, to May 20, with soil conditions in most sections favorable for growth of the new crop. Canadian farmers intended to sow about one and a half million acres less of spring wheat this year than last, according to a recent official report.

Winter wheat conditions outside the United States remain generally favorable, but prospects are not so good as a year ago, when unusually good yields were obtained in central and southern European countries. Winter wheat acreage in Europe, outside of Russia, was increased slightly last fall over the 1931 acreage, most of the increase being in importing countries where high prices have been maintained by tariffs and milling restrictions. Winter-killing was unusually light throughout Europe but the crop is a week to 10 days late in some important areas.

Crop conditions in Russia appear somewhat better than a year ago with spring seeding well ahead of the past 2 seasons. Russian plans call for about 1,000,000 more acres of spring wheat than were sown last spring.

Little change occurred in the supply situation during May but late official estimates confirm the relatively large wheat stocks still available for world needs. In the United States supplies of old wheat are nearly as large as a year ago and over 500,000,000 bushels were still on hand in various positions on the 1st of April, the last date for which complete official figures are available. Since domestic requirements for flour and feed are only about 50,000,000 bushels a month and United States prices are above an export basis the carry-over at the close of the season, June 30, from present indications, will be about as large as a year ago. Canada had nearly 75,000,000 bushels more wheat on hand May 1 than a year ago, so that total supplies of wheat in North America, when bonded grain is taken into account, are about 40,000,000 bushels larger than at this time last season and are sufficient to supply the domestic needs of both the United States and Canada for nearly a year.

Southern Hemisphere countries have about 15,000,000 bushels more wheat available for export than a year ago. Exportable supplies in the Danube Basin are more than twice as large as last season at this time. Taken altogether, stocks of wheat in the principal exporting countries appear to be around 40,000,000 bushels larger than a year ago with world shipments from week to week still running behind last season. Importing countries have taken around 135,000,000 bushels less wheat since the 1st of August than during the corresponding period last year.

Demand for the world's wheat supplies this season has been dull, with takings by importing countries the smallest since 1929–30, when there were short crops in Canada, Argentina, and Australia. Several things have contributed to the slow movement of wheat supplies into

consuming channels this season. First in importance, perhaps, is the serious economic situation throughout the world with widespread unemployment and lack of money in the hands of consumers. Record or near record crops in important European countries, where supplies are about sufficient for domestic needs for the remainder of the season, have reduced materially the need for foreign wheat. High tariffs, together with milling quotas and restrictions on exchange, have all contributed further to the slow disappearance of world wheat stocks this season. As a result, it now appears that heavy world stocks of old wheat will again have to be carried over into the new crop year. These continue to be a weakening influence in the general wheat situation.

Domestic wheat markets during May held most of the 28- to 30-cent gain made during March and April. Soft Winter wheat has advanced more than Hard Winter or Spring wheats. No. 2 Soft Red Winter was bringing around 77 cents per bushel at St. Louis May 22, No. 2 Hard Winter 65 to 70 cents at Kansas City, depending upon protein content, and No. 1 Dark Northern Spring 69 to 72 cents at Minneapolis. Good milling durum was bringing 75 to 78 cents at Duluth. These prices are all well above the export or world price and reflect the strengthening influence of the recently enacted farm relief and credit legislation, advancing security and commodity prices and possible currency inflation. Marketings were moderately heavy as a result of the higher prices but mills and elevator interests were ready buyers and market stocks decreased during the month about as much as usual for this time of the year.

Foreign wheat prices have followed only a small part of the recent advance in domestic markets and have been influenced more by the large world supplies and slow demand from importing countries. Price trends have been obscured by changes in currency values but in general wheats in the principal exporting countries, including Canada, Argentina, and Australia, advanced slightly during May, while prices of native wheats in Europe held about steady in local currencies.

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HOG PRICES RISE SHARPLY

The marked rise in hog prices in May was probably the most encouraging economic development experienced by Corn Belt farmers in at least 4 years. Last December hog prices reached the lowest levels at Chicago since 1896, the weekly average dropping to $2.95 per 100 pounds. From that extreme low point the weekly average rose gradually to $4.01 the third week in March. A seasonal decline then got under way as a result of increased market supplies but it was of brief duration.

Official announcement on April 19 of the suspension of gold payments in this country was followed by a slight strengthening of hog prices during the next 2 weeks, but beginning May 8 prices advanced sharply for a period of 10 trading days. During this 10-day period the top price at Chicago rose from $4 to $5.45, or to within 10 cents of the 1932 top at that market, reached early last July.

The unusual strength of the hog market during this period is indicated by the fact that when prices were rising so rapidly, supplies of hogs at slaughter centers were considerably larger than in the corresponding period a year earlier. Hog slaughter during the first half of May was about 15 percent larger than in the first half of May 1932, at which time prices were considerably lower than current levels and were showing pronounced weakness.

In late April hog prices moved above the levels of a year earlier for the first time since the fall of 1930, and at the end of May they were almost $2 per 100 pounds higher than on the corresponding date last year. As a result of the larger supplies of hogs marketed and the higher prices paid, hog producers apparently received about $15,000,000 more for hogs in May this year than last.

The rise in hog prices at a time of year when declines are usually in progress because of a seasonal increase in marketings, may be attributed in large part to a change in the general economic situation during the last 2 months. Foreign currencies have risen in value in terms of United States dollars and this caused an advance in prices of lard and cured pork in this country and has strengthened materially the speculative and storage demand for all hog products. Lard prices started upward in early March, held steady during the first half of April, and rose almost 2 cents a pound during late April and the month of May. Lard prices in Chicago at the end of May were nearly 3 cents a pound higher than a year earlier. Prices of cured pork also advanced materially at Chicago, but to a much lesser extent in New York. Prices of fresh pork, on the other hand, have shown less tendency to reflect the rise in hog prices.

During the winter months the general policy of packers seemed to be to move hog products into consumption as rapidly as possible rather than accumulate large storage holdings. In view of the recent changes in the economic situation, the tendency now seems to be to increase storage holdings somewhat in anticipation of a better demand for products during the summer.

Hog slaughter under Federal inspection in April was larger than in March, 3.6 percent larger than in April last year, and the third largest on record for the month. April also was the first month in the current marketing year to show an increase in slaughter supplies over the corresponding month a year earlier. Slaughter supplies during May apparently will be considerably larger than in May last year as marketings during the first half of the months showed a very large increase over the corresponding period a year earlier.

Inspected slaughter from October 1932 to April 1933, the period usually considered as the marketing season of the spring pig crop, amounted to 27,762,000 head, which was a decrease of 8.6 percent from the slaughter during the corresponding months a year earlier. This decrease is largely a reflection of the reduction in the 1932 spring pig crop.

The export situation in hog products is still generally unfavorable, although hog numbers in some European producing couutries are being reduced. Exports of pork have increased somewhat recently, but those of lard have fallen off, although they are slightly larger than those of a year earlier. Effective May 16, the German import duty on lard was again raised, and it is now equivalent to about 9 cents a pound in United States currency.

In view of the moderate increase in the 1932 fall pig crop, as indicated by the December pig survey, hog slaughter during the 5 months, May to September, is expected to be slightly larger than in the corresponding period a year earlier. The present reduction in storage holdings of hog products from those of a year ago, however, is expected to more than offset any increase in slaughter. The distribution of supplies over this 5 months' period is expected to be somewhat the reverse of last year, when they were relatively small in June and July and unusually large in August and September. With the hog market developing such marked strength recently despite increased supplies, there is a good prospect that the demand for hogs this summer will be considerably improved over that of a year earlier.

C. A. Burmeister,
Livestock, Meats, and Wool Division.

THE FRUIT AND VEGETABLE SITUATION

Various tree fruits are expected to become a market factor during June. Cherries were moving actively from California the last of May; southern early peaches were starting, and new-crop apples will soon appear in city distributing centers. Warm weather has increased the demand for melons and lemons. Interest in strawberries was beginning to wane. The season for 1932 apples from storage will soon be at an end.

Considerable strength appeared in markets for celery and new-crop onions, partly as a result of rather limited supplies. Potatoes, lettuce, and cabbage prices were weak. Tomatoes were meeting a fair demand at rather moderate prices.

Combined car-lot movement of the principal fruits and vegetables has been comparing favorably with that of a year ago and is averaging about 2,500 cars per day around June 1. Because of a later season, movement of cantaloupes has fallen far short of last year's corresponding output, but watermelons have been much more abundant than in 1932. Tomato shipments also have been far more numerous than those of last spring and several other important districts are about to begin shipping.

Peaches.—Indicated production of peaches in 10 Southern States is 11,455,000 bushels, as against a short crop of about 5,500,000 last year and a very large crop of 22,000,000 bushels in 1931. The 5-year average for the period ending 1930 is slightly over 15,300,000 bushels. Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Texas, for the second year in succession, probably will have very light crops, because of severe winter damage. Georgia expects 5,100,000 bushels, compared with only 1,170,000 last season. Alabama may have fully 900,000 bushels, or four times as many as in 1932. The North Carolina crop may reach 1,920,000 bushels this year, which is slightly above average, and South Carolina looks for 1,380,000 bushels, or three fourths more than last year.

Strawberry shipments this season have run considerably ahead of last year's corresponding record because of heavier early crops. Production in the second-early States registered a 22 percent increase over last season. The nine intermediate States expect a total of 3,868,000 crates of 24 quarts, or only 2 percent more than last year. Acreage for picking this year shows a 10 percent increase, but yields in the

intermediate States probably will fall short of last season's record. Considerable increases of production are indicated for all of this group, except Missouri and New Jersey. Greatest gains are shown for Kentucky and Illinois, while New Jersey may have a 30 percent reduction from last season. At peak of the season, rail movement of berries averaged around 250 cars per day. The season was active in Virginia, Maryland, Missouri, and other Central States by late May, with sections farther north soon to follow. Aromas were bringing shippers $1.75 per 24-quart crate around Monett, Mo., while the growers in Virginia and Maryland were getting $1 to $3 per crate of 32 quarts, depending on variety and condition. Strawberries from various States were jobbing in city markets on a quart basis at 5 to 15 cents. Prices have been considerably lower than last year.

POTATO MARKETS WEAK

Potato production in the lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas was reduced to 927,000 bushels, thereby making the commercial production for that district and Florida together about 2,800,000 bushels, or 29 percent more than last year. The second group of seven early States expects a commercial crop of about 6,600,000 bushels, or 6 percent less than in 1932. Most of the cut is in parts of Texas outside the lower valley. Increases over last season are indicated for Alabama and South Carolina. Leading States are California with 2,243,000 bushels, Louisiana with 1,296,000, South Carolina with 1,023,000, and Alabama with 944,000 bushels. Peak of South Carolina movement was expected about May 25, and North Carolina was becoming active by June 1.

Shipments of new potatoes were beginning to equal the output of old stock, during late May, each of the two kinds totaling about 300 cars per day. Most of the new potatoes were coming from the Carolinas and the Gulf States, with Oklahoma soon to follow. Bliss Triumphs had declined to $1 per 100-pound sack at southern shipping points, while South Carolina Cobblers returned an f.o.b. price between $2.25 and $2.50 per barrel. City dealers were getting $3 to $4.25 per barrel of Cobblers or $1.25 to $2.10 per sack of Triumphs. Most sales were being made at about half the price of a year ago, because shipments were twice as heavy as in 1932.

Old potatoes were still coming largely from Maine, Idaho, and the North Central States. The market for Idaho Russets had strengthened to $1.60 to $1.65 per 100-pound sack in Chicago, but Northern Round Whites were rather weak there at 70 to 80 cents. The f.o.b. price in Wisconsin was around 45 cents, compared with returns of 65 to 68 cents in western New York. Green Mountains were weak in northern Maine at 40 cents per 100 pounds sacked. The price level for old potatoes was very close to that of late May in 1932.

Onions.—Total output of early onions just prior to June 1 was only half as heavy as a year ago, and shippers in Texas were receiving nearly twice as much as last year. Yellow Bermudas had strengthened in Corpus Christi district of Texas to $1.05 to $1.15 per 50-pound sack. This stock and Crystal Wax onions sold at $1 to $1.65 in consuming centers. Old yellow onions from New York jobbed at 50 cents to $1 per 50-pound bag in the East, but midwestern yellows were within a narrower range of 50 to 85 cents in many markets. Very light shipments were coming from storage. Movement of the new crop from

Texas, southern California, and Louisiana was averaging about 100 cars daily.

Tomatoes from Rio Grande Valley of Texas were the main factor in market supplies during the latter part of May, as the Florida season was near its end and imports from Mexico had stopped. Movement was fully double that of a year ago, and averaged 125 cars per day, although the Texas crop was reduced by wilt. Prices had declined in lower Rio Grande Valley to \$1.25 to \$1.40 per lug. These tomatoes ranged \$1.25 to \$2.25 in city markets, as against Mexican stock at \$1.25 to \$2.50 and Florida stock at \$1 to \$2.50. New York quoted 6-basket crates from Florida at \$1.50 to \$2. The lower valley of Texas had 980,000 bushels, compared with 340,000 last spring. Florida was increased to 1,050,000, but Imperial Valley was reduced to 100,000 bushels this year. The season will open soon in Mississippi and east Texas.

Celery markets were strong. The half-crates reached \$1.75 f.o.b. usual terms in Venice district of California and jobbed in city markets at \$2.25 to \$3.25, compared with Florida 10-inch crates at \$2.75 to \$4.50. California was beginning to exceed Florida in shipments, the total from the two States averaging only 50 cars each day.

PAUL FROEHLICH,
Division of Fruits and Vegetables.

THE EGG AND POULTRY MARKET SITUATION

Egg markets in May failed to follow the continued advance in prices that occurred for most other agricultural commodities. Heavy receipts at both primary and terminal markets, a consumption demand that lagged behind last year, and further sizable additions to stocks in storage, all combined to counteract the strengthening effects of rising commoditity prices and Federal legislation. The prospects of currency inflation and indications of a gradual improvement in business conditions led to a slight rise in egg prices early in the month, but both spot and future quotations took a downward turn when the lack of consumption caused more eggs to go into storage than was considered healthy for this time of the season.

Of particular interest at the present moment is the continued heavy production and the failure of consumption to meet last year's volume, either in May or the months preceding. The number of hens and pullets in farm-laying flocks continue above those of a year ago, although somewhat smaller than the 5-year average of 1927–31. Production per layer on May 1 was less than on that date last year, but the increase in the number of layers per farm flock gave a total production that was slightly greater than last year but less than the 5-year average. Receipts of eggs at the four principal markets in April were 19.7 percent larger than the receipts of April last year, and for the first 4 months of 1933 were 12.1 percent larger than for the same months in 1932. In May receipts at the same markets were about 22 percent heavier for the first 3 weeks, while collections at packing plants in the Middle West continued well above a year ago. Receipts at packing plants on the west coast, however, remained below those of a year ago.

Egg consumption so far this year has been very disappointing in comparison with the same period a year ago. The trade output of the four markets up to the end of April was about 20 percent less than that of last year, and for the first 3 weeks of May about 16 percent smaller. Consumption in May was somewhat improved over that of preceding months of this year, but even yet it is far from encouraging in view of the large supplies on hand. It is the opinion of some that prices have been too high this spring to stimulate a current use of eggs at all comparable in volume to that of a year ago, a condition which has been partly responsbile for an accumulation of stocks in storage that at the present time is a matter of considerable concern.

In view of the uncertainty that exists with respect to improvement of economic conditions within the next few months, the trend of employment and consumer purchasing power, more than ordinary interest is being centered upon the storage situation. On May 1 a total of 4,848,000 cases of eggs were reported in storage, compared with only 2,982,000 cases on May 1 last year. Based upon the experience of former years, between 50 and 55 percent of the season's peak storage holdings are in storage by May 1. Unless there is a marked slowing down in the rate at which eggs have gone into storage up to the present time, it is inevitable that the peak holdings this year will be much heavier than those of 1932. This probability caused many speculators who bought heavily early in the season to withdraw from the market during the latter part of May, while some receivers who stored liberally up to late May rather than take a loss because of high country costs are now accepting that loss rather than store. This change in policy has left the market in a slightly weaker position. There is now evident a feeling that storage stocks must be kept down to a more reasonable figure than the peak holdings indicated by the May 1 stocks. Should this program be followed, it will mean that more eggs must go into consumption, and if necessary at lower prices.

Dressed poultry markets in general held steady to firm, with prices showing no more than usual seasonal fluctuations. Supplies of broilers from both nearby and Middle Western areas increased seasonally, with the market relatively steady. The receipts of live broilers, however, were more than ample to supply a light demand and prices declined about 4 cents compared with a slight increase a year ago. Fresh fowl were slightly irregular, quotations on the smaller sizes declining 1 cent and the larger sizes advancing 1 cent.

The market on frozen poultry continued firm, although the recent advances in prices has apparently developed some consumer resistance. Reductions in storage stocks at the four markets during the first 3 weeks of May were only about half as large as the reductions of the same period a year ago. This slackening of demand for frozen poultry was discouraging to some speculators who were buying rather heavily a month ago, for during May this type of buying was practically negligible. Owners of frozen poultry, however, still believe that the statistical position of the market is sound, as they are not willing to make any concessions to move large-sized blocks.

Receipts of dressed poultry at the four markets continue to be above the receipts of last year, averaging around 22 percent to the close of April and 20 percent for the first 3 weeks of May. Not all of this increase is represented by fresh-killed poultry, as considerable quantities of frozen poultry have been shipped from interior points of

storage to the four markets as a result of the higher prices for that class of goods. Receipts of fresh-killed fowl were relatively light up toward the close of May, but the recent decline in egg prices will no doubt bring more liberal shipments, as farmers have been holding back their hens for egg production.

Dressed poultry in storage on May 1 amounted to 45,900,000 pounds, compared with 56,676,000 pounds on May 1 last year, and 57,950,000 pounds for the 5-year average. Reduction of stocks in April were considerably larger than a year ago and practically equalled the 5-year average for April. Broilers in storage on May 1 were approximately one third lighter than on the same date last year. Stocks of other classes, with the exception of fryers, were likewise smaller than a year ago, but to a much lesser extent.

B. H. Bennett,
Division of Dairy and Poultry Products.

THE DAIRY MARKET SITUATION

Dairy markets in May were influenced both by the trend of production, which is of more than ordinary importance at this time of the year, and by the apparently slight improvement in business conditions generally. Furthermore, there is now a clearer understanding with reference to legislation which was pending a month ago, and the money situation is perhaps better defined than at that time. The Federal farm relief bill has been enacted into law, and while the probable program of activity with reference to dairy products is not as yet outlined, there is a general feeling that this bill affords the opportunity for improving conditions and eliminating certain problems in connection with the marketing of dairy products.

Information available on production has supported a firmer market and higher prices. Late pastures and unfavorable weather throughout some of the most important dairy sections have slowed up the usual seasonal increase in dairy production, and since early April it has fallen increasingly below that of a year ago. Production of creamery butter in April was 4.5 percent smaller than in April last year, and in addition failed to make the usual seasonal gain over March. American cheese was slightly less than a year earlier. Condensed milk decreased 29.5 percent, but evaporated milk gained 20 percent. Total production of these four commodities on a milk equivalent basis was 2.1 percent less than in April last year.

Further encouragement is found in the storage situation. Particularly with reference to evaporated milk. Stocks of evaporated milk in the hands of manufacturers on May 1 amounted to only 36,975,000 pounds, a decrease of about 68 percent from the stocks of a year ago, and the smallest stocks ever reported for any date since such information became available. Stocks of butter, cheese, and condensed milk all showed decreases but to a varying degree. The combined total milk equivalent of all dairy products reported in storage on May 1 was approximately 29.8 percent less than on the same date last year.

The apparent trade output of dairy products in April increased slightly over a year ago, due to an exceptionally heavy movement of evaporated milk into trade channels, but with butter decreasing 3.7

percent and condensed milk 18.8 percent. Cheese increased 0.7 percent. In view of the decreased production and the smaller stocks in storage, the apparent trade output of dairy products in April was considered as distinctly encouraging. It is, as yet, a little too early to judge what effects the recent rise in prices will have upon consumption. No doubt it will be detrimental to some extent, but it is hoped that it will be offset to a large degree by the anticipated continued improvement in business.

The trend of products prices in general was irregularly higher in May. The quotation on 92-score butter in New York, for instance, rose to the high point so far reached this year—23¾ cents on May 13. Since that date the price trend had been irregularly lower, but at the latest available quotation (22¼ cents on May 25) butter prices were still 4¼ cents per pound higher than on the corresponding day a year ago. Another fact of material significance, particularly to the producer, is the rise in butter prices compared with a month ago. Averaging about 22¾ cents, the May price for 92-score butter in New York is approximately 2½ cents higher than the April price, and this at a season of the year when the trend is generally downward. A similar advance in butter prices as that experienced this year, has, in fact, not occurred in the past 30 years.

Cheese prices also advanced 1½ cents during May, and the prevailing quotation on Twins on the Wisconsin Cheese Exchange, at 12 cents, is 3 cents higher than at this time in 1932, and 1½ cents higher than at the same time in 1931. Cheese prices have now advanced a total of 4 cents from the low quotation of the year. Evaporated milk prices also rose another 25 cents per case early in the month, and fractional upward price revisions were also noted in condensed milk quotations.

The tone of the fluid milk markets was irregular with the question of direction and magnitude of proposed price changes in a number of markets decidedly unsettled. Such a situation is, of course, unusual at this season of the year when most price changes which do occur are in a downward direction. The greater difference or opinion which prevailed this year may be attributed to several factors. The milk flow, for instance, has not increased at the normal rate due to the lateness of the season. As a result milk shipments reaching terminal markets are smaller than at this time in other recent years and the pressure to reduce prices is, consequently, not as great. Furthermore, in some States, particularly in New York, Wisconsin, and in the Chicago territory, efforts are being made to regulate milk prices through official and semiofficial action. While it is too early to point to any concrete results, it appears likely that these efforts have also contributed to more stable or even increased milk prices in the face of the usual spring declines.

Summarizing the present situation, it may be said that it contains certain elements that are distinctly hopeful. Production in May has apparently failed to equal that of last year. Pastures are showing some improvement, but as yet do not equal those of a year ago. Business conditions are generally considered to record some improvement. All of these factors are having, and should continue to have, a beneficial influence upon the dairy markets and the dairy producers.

B. H. Bennett,
Division of Dairy and Poultry Products.

SUMMARY OF DAIRY STATISTICS

[Millions of pounds; 000,000 omitted]

PRODUCTION

Product	April			January to April, inclusive		
	1933	1932	Per cent change	1933	1932	Per cent change
Creamery butter	134	140	−4.5	501	514	−2.4
Cheese	36	36	−0.6	131	125	+5.0
Condensed milk	16	23	−29.5	58	76	−23.4
Evaporated milk [1]	172	143	+20.0	530	459	+15.5
Total milk equivalent	3,642	3,719	−2.1	13,312	13,379	−0.5

APPARENT CONSUMPTION

[Including production, changes in stocks, and net imports or exports]

Product	April 1933	April 1932	Per cent change	Jan.–Apr. 1933	Jan.–Apr. 1932	Per cent change
Creamery butter	134	139	−3.7	514	530	−3.0
Cheese	45	45	+0.7	169	169	−0.1
Condensed milk	16	19	−18.8	65	74	−12.0
Evaporated milk	182	124	+47.1	581	458	+27.0
Total milk equivalent	3,755	3,721	+0.9	14,105	14,155	−0.4

[1] Case goods only.

T. R. PIRTLE,
Division of Dairy and Poultry Products.

AGRICULTURAL LOANS OUTSTANDING [1]

[Millions of dollars]

Year and month	Farm mortgage loans by—				Federal intermediate-credit bank loans—		Seed and crop production loans		
	Federal land banks	Joint-stock land banks	40 life insurance companies	Member banks	To cooperative associations	To financing agencies	Advanced, current	Repaid, current	Outstanding end of year or month
1926	1,078	632	1,588	489	53	40	[2] 2	----	2
1927	1,156	667	1,618	478	32	44	------	----	2
1928	1,194	605	1,606	444	36	45	------	----	2
1929	1,197	585	1,591	388	26	50	6	5	3
1930	1,188	553	1,554	387	64	66	5	3	5
1931	1,163	530	1,512	359	45	75	54	6	53
1932									
January	1,158	525	1,512	-----	43	75	------	4	49
June	1,139	470	1,467	363	36	80	68	8	109
September	1,129	454	1,443	368	19	83	------	7	102
December	1,116	[3] 409	1,402	356	10	83	------	12	90
1933									
January	1,112	[3] 404	1,394	-----	7	81	------	2	88
February	1,110	[3] 399	[4] 1,382	-----	7	80	------	2	86
March	1,107	[3] 395	[4] 1,368	-----	6	81	13	1	98
April	1,105	[3] 390	-------	-----	5	78	34	1	131

[1] See April 1932 issue for sources.
[2] Total since 1921.
[3] Omits $53,000,000 owed 3 banks in receivership.
[4] Data for 39 companies.

DAVID L. WICKENS,
Division of Agricultural Finance.

PRICES OF FARM PRODUCTS

Estimates of average prices received by producers at local farm markets based on reports to the division of crop and livestock estimates of this Bureau. Average of reports covering the United States, weighted according to relative importance of district and State.

Product	5-year average, August 1909–July 1914	May average, 1910–14	May 1932	April 1933	May 1933
Cotton, per pound___cents__	12.4	12.7	5.2	6.1	8.2
Corn, per bushel_____do____	64.2	66.2	30.1	28.2	38.9
Wheat, per bushel___do____	88.4	90.3	42.4	44.8	59.0
Hay, per ton______dollars__	11.87	12.28	8.48	6.12	6.37
Potatoes, per bushel_cents__	69.7	69.5	47.0	42.4	43.7
Oats, per bushel_____do____	39.9	41.5	21.8	17.0	21.7
Beef cattle, per 100 pounds dollars__	5.20	5.50	3.91	3.54	3.95
Hogs, per 100 pounds_do____	7.24	7.23	2.96	3.21	3.88
Eggs, per dozen_____cents__	21.5	16.7	10.3	10.3	11.8
Butter, per pound___do____	25.5	24.1	20.2	18.6	19.9
Butterfat, per pound_do____	26.3	24.0	16.3	16.5	20.2
Wool, per pound____do____	17.8	17.8	8.8	10.1	17.7
Veal calves, per 100 pounds dollars__	6.75	6.59	4.57	4.36	4.50
Lambs, per 100 pounds dollars__	5.90	6.46	4.78	4.33	4.72
Horses, each________do____	142.00	144.00	62.00	67.00	71.00

COLD-STORAGE SITUATION

[May 1 holdings, shows nearest millions; i.e., 000,000 omitted]

Commodity	5-year average	Year ago	Month ago	May 1, 1933
Apples, total_____________barrels__	[1] 1,431	[1] 1,719	[1] 2,894	[1] 1,562
Frozen and preserved fruits_pounds__	48	72	59	52
40 percent cream____40-quart cans__	_______	[1] 88	[1] 55	[1] 52
Creamery butter__________pounds__	12	10	9	9
American cheese____________do____	41	39	42	37
Frozen eggs________________do____	71	82	45	63
Shell eggs_________________cases__	[1] 4,475	[1] 2,982	[1] 1,833	[1] 4,848
Total poultry_____________pounds__	58	57	67	46
Total beef_________________do____	58	41	34	31
Total pork_________________do____	853	799	610	630
Lard_______________________do____	134	111	62	72
Lamb and mutton, frozen____do____	3	1	2	2
Total meats________________do____	990	901	688	707

[1] 3 ciphers omitted.

GENERAL TREND OF PRICES AND WAGES

[1910–1914=100]

Year and month	Wholesale prices of all commodities [1]	Industrial wages [2]	Prices paid by farmers for commodities used in—			Farm wages	Taxes
			Living	Production	Living-production		
1910	103	------	98	98	98	97	------
1911	95	------	100	103	101	97	------
1912	101	------	101	98	100	101	------
1913	102	------	100	102	100	104	------
1914	99	------	102	99	101	101	100
1915	102	101	107	103	106	102	102
1916	125	114	125	121	123	112	104
1917	172	129	148	152	150	140	106
1918	192	160	180	176	178	176	118
1919	202	185	214	192	205	206	130
1920	225	222	227	175	206	239	155
1921	142	203	165	142	156	150	217
1922	141	197	160	140	152	146	232
1923	147	214	161	142	153	166	246
1924	143	218	162	143	154	166	249
1925	151	223	165	149	159	168	250
1926	146	229	164	144	156	171	253
1927	139	231	161	144	154	170	258
1928	141	232	162	146	156	169	263
1929	139	236	160	146	155	170	267
1930	126	226	151	140	146	152	266
1931	107	207	129	122	126	116	[4] 250
1932	95	178	110	108	109	86	[4] 215
April:							
1921	144	206	------	------	------	------	------
1922	136	190	------	------	------	------	------
1923	152	213	163	142	154	148	------
1924	142	218	162	142	154	163	------
1925	149	218	166	150	160	164	------
1926	146	227	164	144	156	166	------
1927	137	230	------	------	------	166	------
1928	141	227	------	------	------	166	------
1929	139	237	------	------	------	167	------
1930	131	231	------	------	------	162	------
1931	109	215	------	------	------	127	------
1932	96	183	------	------	------	94	------
1932							
October	94	177	------	------	106	84	------
November	93	171	------	------	106	------	------
December	91	170	105	104	105	------	------
1933							
January	89	164	------	------	104	74	------
February	87	164	------	------	102	------	------
March	88	163	101	101	101	------	------
April	88	165	------	------	[4] 100	72	------

[1] Bureau of Labor Statistics. Index obtained by dividing the new series 1926=100, by its pre-war average, 1910–1914, 68.5.
[2] Average weekly earnings, New York State factories. June 1914=100.
[3] Index of estimate of total taxes paid on all farm property, 1914=100.
[4] Preliminary.

GENERAL TREND OF PRICES AND PURCHASING POWER

[On 5-year base, August 1909–July 1914=100]

Year and month	Index numbers of farm prices							Prices paid by farmers for commodities bought [1]	Ratio of prices received to prices paid
	Grains	Fruits and vegetables	Cotton and cottonseed	Meat animals	Dairy products	Poultry products	All groups		
1910	104	91	113	103	100	104	103	98	106
1911	96	106	101	87	97	91	95	101	93
1912	106	110	87	95	103	101	99	100	99
1913	92	92	97	108	100	101	100	100	99
1914	103	100	85	112	100	105	102	101	101
1915	120	83	78	104	98	103	100	106	95
1916	126	123	119	120	102	116	117	123	95
1917	217	202	187	173	125	157	176	150	118
1918	226	162	245	202	152	185	200	178	112
1919	231	189	247	206	173	206	209	205	102
1920	231	249	248	173	188	222	205	206	99
1921	112	148	101	108	148	161	116	156	75
1922	105	152	156	113	134	139	124	152	81
1923	114	136	216	106	148	145	135	153	88
1924	129	124	211	109	134	147	134	154	87
1925	156	160	177	139	137	161	147	159	92
1926	129	189	122	146	136	156	136	156	87
1927	128	155	128	139	138	141	131	154	85
1928	130	146	152	150	140	150	139	156	90
1929	121	136	145	156	140	159	138	155	89
1930	100	158	102	134	123	126	117	146	80
1931	63	98	63	93	94	96	80	126	63
1932	44	71	46	63	70	80	57	109	53
May:									
1921	116	132	78	111	141	111	112	------	------
1922	115	206	144	119	126	114	127	------	------
1923	123	157	211	108	142	117	135	155	87
1924	114	132	222	107	128	109	129	154	84
1925	159	162	184	139	132	131	146	160	91
1926	131	240	130	148	130	135	139	156	89
1927	127	158	113	137	136	112	126	154	82
1928	160	181	166	151	136	128	148	156	95
1929	113	119	148	164	139	134	136	155	88
1930	105	193	119	142	123	110	124	150	83
1931	74	119	74	99	91	77	86	131	66
1932	49	80	42	59	69	60	56	112	50
1932									
October	36	59	51	60	68	102	56	106	52
November	34	57	47	57	68	115	54	106	51
December	33	59	43	52	69	121	52	105	50
1933									
January	34	59	45	51	68	96	51	104	50
February	34	57	44	53	62	57	49	102	48
March	36	60	48	56	59	54	50	101	50
April	47	66	49	57	59	56	53	[2] 100	[2] 53
May	62	68	65	65	63	62	62	[2] 100	[2] 62

[1] These index numbers are based on retail prices paid by farmers for commodities used in living and production, reported quarterly for March, June, September, and December. The indexes for other months are straight interpolations between the successive quarterly indexes. [2] Preliminary.

THE TREND OF EXPORT MOVEMENT

Compiled from the Department of Commerce reports by the foreign agricultural service division of this Bureau.

Year and month	Wheat,[1] including flour	Tobacco (leaf)	Bacon,[2] hams, and shoulders	Lard [3]	Apples (fresh)	Cotton,[4] running bales
	1,000 bushels	*1,000 pounds*	*1,000 pounds*	*1,000 pounds*	*1,000 bushels*	*1,000 bales*
Total:						
1920	311, 601	467, 662	821, 922	612, 250	5, 393	6, 111
1921	359, 021	515, 353	647, 680	868, 942	5, 809	6, 385
1922	235, 307	430, 908	631, 452	766, 950	4, 945	6, 015
1923	175, 190	474, 500	828, 890	1, 035, 382	8, 876	5, 224
1924	241, 454	546, 555	637, 980	944, 095	10, 261	6, 653
1925	138, 784	468, 471	467, 459	688, 829	10, 043	8, 362
1926	193, 971	478, 773	351, 591	698, 961	16, 170	8, 916
1927	228, 576	506, 252	237, 720	681, 303	15, 534	9, 199
1928	151, 976	575, 408	248, 278	759, 722	13, 635	8, 546
1929	154, 348	555, 347	275, 118	829, 328	16, 856	7, 418
1930	149, 154	560, 958	216, 953	642, 486	15, 850	6, 474
1931	125, 686	503, 531	123, 246	568, 708	17, 785	6, 849
1932	82, 118	387, 768	84, 175	546, 184	16, 920	8, 916
April:						
1920	13, 934	42, 386	39, 996	40, 758	221	540
1921	25, 120	43, 320	57, 778	53, 275	221	315
1922	10, 698	40, 190	43, 254	42, 459	178	587
1923	10, 428	40, 141	68, 528	85, 475	177	257
1924	8, 624	59, 019	57, 546	73, 307	745	311
1925	12, 912	30, 519	33, 413	44, 447	329	440
1926	6, 452	43, 388	31, 410	63, 160	464	506
1927	16, 138	35, 041	17, 844	67, 345	1, 079	825
1928	7, 410	41, 215	22, 064	56, 554	116	467
1929	9, 151	39, 082	25, 062	59, 144	1, 101	448
1930	7, 438	42, 449	21, 249	50, 045	226	350
1931	7, 106	45, 189	11, 129	44, 769	702	392
1932	11, 882	30, 745	6, 845	36, 014	587	545
1932						
October	4, 422	57, 112	6, 567	53, 573	2, 788	1, 008
November	5, 985	44, 531	7, 714	35, 897	2, 916	1, 012
December	3, 549	28, 910	6, 347	49, 900	1, 144	1, 040
1933						
January	3, 313	26, 915	6, 666	78, 108	1, 766	794
February	2, 175	23, 579	4, 989	57, 773	1, 422	557
March	2, 105	35, 122	7, 062	47, 661	1, 218	488
April	1, 754	37, 618	8, 810	38, 741	346	436

[1] Wheat flour is converted on a basis of 4.7 bushels of grain equal to 1 barrel of flour.
[2] Includes Cumberland and Wiltshire sides.
[3] Excludes neutral lard.
[4] Excludes linters.

GENERAL BUSINESS INDICATORS RELATED TO AGRICULTURE

Production, consumption, and movements	Apr., 1932	Mar., 1933	Apr., 1933	Month's trend
Production				
Pig iron, daily (thousand tons)	28	18	21	Increase.
Bituminous coal (million tons)	20	[1] 24	20	Decrease.
Steel ingots (thousand long tons)	[1] 1, 234	[1] 891	1, 335	Increase.
Consumption				
Cotton by mills (thousand bales)	[1] 366	494	471	Decrease.
Unfilled orders, Steel Corporation (thousand tons)	2, 327	1, 841	1, 865	Increase.
Building contracts in 37 Northeastern States (million dollars)	122	60	57	Decrease.
Hogs slaughtered (thousands)	2, 024	1, 921	2, 083	Increase.
Cattle slaughtered (thousands)	879	786	829	Do.
Sheep slaughtered (thousands)	1, 269	1, 099	1, 152	Do.
Movements				
Bank debits (outside New York City) (billion dollars)	14	10	10	Unchanged.
Carloadings (thousands)	2, 774	1, 841	2, 505	Increase.
Mail-order sales (million dollars)	40	28	35	Do.
Employees, New York State factories (thousands)	382	266	273	Do.
Average price 25 industrial stocks (dollars)	88	85	97	Do.
Interest rate (4–6 months' paper, New York) (percent)	3. 50	3. 00	2. 63	Decrease.
Retail food price index (Department of Labor)[2]	104	91	90	Do.
Wholesale price index (Department of Labor)[2]	66	60	60	Unchanged.

[1] Revised. [2] 1910–1914 basis.

Data in the above table, excepting livestock slaughter and price indexes, are from the Survey of Current Business, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, United States Department of Commerce.

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